

R E M A R K S

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the rejection of claims 1-3, 9, 10, 13, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on the Shimazu, et al reference has been withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 11-16 are allowed by the Examiner.

The Examiner indicated that the species claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 depend from generic claims 1 and 5 which are finally held allowable, and therefore the restriction of these claims has been withdrawn and these claims are rejoined. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112.

The Examiner's indication of the allowance of the claims has been gratefully acknowledged.

In connection with the Examiner's rejection of claim 10, applicants amended all claims to remove reference numerals. As well known, reference numerals are not important for the patentability of the invention and do not define the invention.

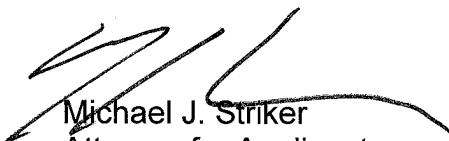
Claim 18 which was previously withdrawn from consideration has been cancelled.

It is therefore believed that the rejection of claim 10 should be withdrawn, and all remaining claims should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,



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